

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 772

S E C R E T MUSCAT 060

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, MU, US

SUBJECT: FMS CASE: TOW FOR OMAN

REF: A. MUSCAT 050

B. STATE 7328

1. CHARGE MET LATE AFTERNOON JAN. 14 WITH DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER SAYYID FAHAR AND CSAF GENERAL CREASEY FURTHER TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPMENT OF TOW. CREASEY EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE ABOUT NEWS AND CONFIRMED THAT SHIPMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEEB (PARA 3, REFTEL B).

2. CREASEY PLANS TO HAVE MTT LIVE AND WORK AT SAFTR (TRAINING BASE CLOSE TO SEEB AIRPORT). INSTRUCTION WILL BE IN ENGLISH. PERSONNEL SHOULD WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES, AND THEIR IDENTITY AS U.S. MILITARY WILL BE KEPT AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH CREASEY SPECULATED THAT ADEN'S "VOICE OF OMAN WILL HAVE THE NEWS WITHIN 48 HOURS..." CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT MATTER WAS BEING HELD CLOSELY BY USG.

3. CSAF FRANKLY ADMITTED IGNORANCE OF SPECIFICATIONS OF TOW. HE ASSUMES THAT PERHAPS A WEEK TO TEN DAYS' TIME WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR MTT TO INSTRUCT SAF COUNTERPARTS (SOME OF WHOM WILL BE BRITISH); LATTER, IN TURN, WILL CARRY OUT FURTHER TRAINING AFTER SAF HAS COMPLETED "EVALUATION" OF TOW.

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4. CREASEY (WHO HAS BEEN SPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME

AT THE FRONT AND, CONSEQUENTLY, WAS MORE OUT OF TOUCH THAN HE OTHERWISE WOULD BE--EVEN WITH PRINCIPAL ACTORS OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY) TOOK OCCASION TO ASK IF THERE HAD BEEN DECISION TO SUPPLY M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS. FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, THIS WEAPON WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN PRESENT SAF OPERATIONS IN WESTERN DHOFAR. CHARGE DEMURRED, BUT PROMISED TO INQUIRE. (EMBASSY FILES INDICATE THAT OMANGOV EARLIER ASKED US TO SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF THAT REQUEST--SEE MUSCAT 640 OF OCT. 16, 1974).

5. FINALLY, SAF OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SIZE AND WEIGHT OF PALLETED CLAYMORE MINES (PRESUMABLY ITEM DETERMINING FORKLIFT REQUIREMENTS). CSAF ASSURED CHARGE THAT MAXIMUM AVAILABLE FORKLIFT WOULD BE READIED, BUT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT SURE THIS WOULD BE OF 10,000-POUND CAPACITY AS REQUESTED.

6. DEPARTMENT PASS TO DEFENSE ADDEES AS APPROPRIATE. ZWEIFEL

SECRET

NNN

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